Widening of export and import deals between India and South Africa

*200. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and South Africa have recently agreed to widen the export and import deals;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa recently;

(c) whether the imports from South Africa are five time more than exports to that country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to enhance exports to South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the meeting between the Commerce & Industry Minister and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa in New Delhi on 13th November, 2009, level of bilateral trade was reviewed and it was stressed that the trade basket is required to be expanded to tap existing potential. Details of discussion are as follows:

(1) Both the Ministers agreed that early conclusion of India-SACU Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) will provide further impetus to trade in goods and investments. It was also agreed that the CEO Forum should be reconstituted at the earliest.

(2) Both the Ministers expressed satisfaction at the level of bilateral trade which has touched US $ 7,406.51 million during 2008-09. India's imports from South Africa were US $ 5,440.36 million during this period and India's exports to South Africa was US $ 1966.15 million.

(3) Both Ministers discussed the two way investments, and noted that Indian investments were about US $ 3 Billion with many projects still under implementation. There is interest shown by South African companies to invest in India also and present inflows are about US $ 100 million.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Imports from South Africa were about 2.77 times the Indian exports to South Africa in 2008-09.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

SEZs approved

1367. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: